country. Various schemes have been implemented from time to time to augment the export of jute goods, like

External Market Assistance Scheme, Export Promotion Stabilisation Fund Scheme etc. Funds arc provided to the Council by the Government for op-crating the export incentive schemes, as also for participation of the Council in various export promotion events at home and abroad for growth of jute goods produced in the country.

(c) Jute Manufactures Development Council has been set up by the Government w.c.f. 1.5.84 under the JMDC Act, 1983 and delegated all functions relating to export promotion in jute sector. The Head Office of the Council is in Calcutta, with three Branch Offices at Delhi, Chennai and Hyderabad, to organise and monitor the export promotion events.

JMDC has incurred the following expenditure during the last three years towards export promotion of jute goods from its annual budget and from the budget provided to it for execution of the National Jute Development Programme under UNDP.

	GOI (Rs./Lakhs)	UNDP (US$)
1995-96	2343.26	195550
1996-97	2361.36	214515
1997-98	2366.95	269639

(d) and (c) The Government has taken several other steps to help the jute industry in export of jute goods. In addition to the export promotion efforts of JMDC through market incentives like EMA, the Council organises Buyer-Seller Meetings, liaises with importers and end users and provides funds for R&D to develop new' range of diversified jute products.

The Government has also implemented a National Jute Programme with UNDP assistance and set up National Centre for Jute Diversification for entrepreneurial development in jute sector.

Import/Export performance in Textile Industry

2631. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether import of yarn fabric and made-ups into the country increased by 32% during April-July this year;

(b) the countries from which imports arc going on; and

(c) the export performance during that period?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) According the provisional figures of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), the import of textile yarn, fabrics and made-ups during the period April-July, 1998 recorded an increase of 32% in rupee terms and 14.8% in dollar terms, over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Republic of Korea, Chinese Taipei, Peoples Republic of China, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Nepal, Thailand and USA are the major countries from which these textiles items arc being imported by India.

(c) As per DGCI&S figures, the export of textile yarn, fabrics and made-ups amounted to Rs. 5620.31 Crore (provisional) during the period April-July, 1998.

Crisis in Jute Industry

2632. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the jute industry is fast heading for a serious crisis as it is sandwitched between suspension

of raw jute supply from local jute traders and dwindling demand for jute goods in both domestic and export market; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The scenario of the Jute Industry has turned out to be most favourable during the last two years. Both during 1997-98 and 1998-99 seasons, the raw jute supply position has been comfortable at reasonable prices. As a result jute industry has faced no problem to maximise production of jute goods to cope up with the huge demand. Under the price support operation, JCI procured a total quantity of 9.85 lakh bales (9.04% of total production) through its 165 purchase centres in 1997-98 and provided remunerative prices to the jute growers. In the current season (1998-99) JCI could purchase around 9000 qtls under price support operation. Thereafter, the price support operation by JCI was not called for as the prices of raw jute started ruling well above support level. Production of jute goods during 1997-98 (April/March) increased to an all time record to 16.78 lakh tonnes as against 14.00 lakh tonnes in 1996-97. Production during 1998-99 (April/Oct) also recorded a marginal increase to 9.37 lakh tonnes from 9.32 lakh tonnes during the same period of last year.

(b) Docs not arise.

Modernisation/Re-Structuring of NTC

2633. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Financial Institutions have refused loans to the National Textiles Corporation for modernisation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the details of the plan modernisation and overall restrucring of NTC; and

(d) what is the outstanding debt of the Banks and Financial Institutions and running interest amount;

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of NTC have been declared sick and are before Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction and have defaulted in payment of outstanding dues to Financial Institutions. As such the Financial Institutions are reluctant to increase their exposure in NTC subsidiaries.

(c) On the basis of a unit wise viability study done by NTC Government is considering a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive within the prescribed period. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

(d) The total debt outstanding and payable by NTC to banks and Financial Institutions (including interest) upto 31.3.98 was Rs. 508.62 crores. The annual interest liability is approximately Rs. 76 crores.

Growth Rate of Textile Production

2634. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of textile production during 1997-98 till September, 1998 as compared to previous two years;

(b) the reasons for sharp decline in the growth rate;

(c) the targeted growth rate fixed and the anticipated achievement likely to be made during the current year; and